Remarks

In the April 9, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8-13, and 33-43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,819,285 ("Damico et al."). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 recites a method for a user on a first computer to access a second computer to retrieve a file saved on a third computer. To do so, the user on the first computer is first authenticated by the second computer. The second computer then creates a temporary directory that has a partially random directory name. The second computer also creates in the temporary directory a symbolic link that points to the first file on the third computer. The second computer then sends a web page including a URL to the file in the temporary directory to the first computer. By transmitting the web page, the file is also transmitted to the user on the first computer. Afterwards, the second computer deletes the temporary directory to prevent unauthorized access to the file.

Damico et al. discloses a system 100 for identifying a co-marketer whose web site 122a has referred a user on a user station 102a to an online service web site 128 of an online service 140.

> As explained more fully below in connection with FIG. 5, when the user of user station 102a clicks on the advertisement for OLS 140 at WWW site 122a, WWW site 122a forms a special destination URL having two parts. The first part of the destination URL is formed of the URL associated with OLS site 128 (e.g., WWW.OLS.COMM). The second part of the destination URL is formed of a destination file name (e.g., INDEX. HTML) and a UNIX™ symbolic link (e,g., \CM1) that is prepended to the beginning of the destination filename by the co-marketer (co-marketer #1) associated with WWW site 122a. The symbol or code used to form the UNIX™ symbolic link (e.g., \CM1) inserted by co-marketer #1 at site 122a is uniquely associated with co-marketer #1 in system 100. The complete destination URL is used to route the user (along dotted line 125) from WWW site 122a of co-marketer #1 to OLS WWW site 128. Upon reaching OLS site 128, the user station 102a is coupled to OLS WWW site 128 by solid line 126, and the complete destination URL formed at site 122a (including the UNIX™ symbolic link portion of such destination URL) is passed to OLS 140 through OLS web server 142.

Damico et al., col. 5, lines 34 to 55.

> If a determination is made in step 220 that the user is operating on a user station 102a that connected to OLS 140 through WWW 120, then processing proceeds to step 230 where enrollment means 145 determines a co-marketer identification symbol or code (CM ID) associated with the user station 102a. In this step, the complete destination URL which was passed to OLS web server 142 when the user was directed from a co-marketer site 122a, 122b, 122c to OLS site 128 is retrieved by OLS web server 142, and the second portion of the destination URL, which contains both a UNIX™ symbolic link and a destination filename (which may be specified implicitly), is then extracted from the complete destination URL. As mentioned above, the UNIX™ symbolic link embedded in the destination URL uniquely identifies a co-marketer which directed the user from its WWW site to OLS site 128.

Damico et al., col. 7, lines 44 to 59.

As described above, co-marketer's website 122a includes an advertisement for online service website 128. If the user on user station 102a clicks the advertisement, co-marketer's website 122a creates a link for the advertisement to online service website 128. The link has a URL consisting of two parts. The first part is the address of online service website 128 (e.g., WWW.OLS.COM). The second part consists of a UNIX symbolic link (e.g., CM1) and a file name of the web page to be served to the user (e.g., the web page INDEX.HTML). The first part of the URL leads the user to online service website 128. An online service web server 142 then uses the second part of the URL to identify the co-marketer that referred the user.

The Examiner cited Damico et al. at col. 5, lines 40 to 42 for disclosing "creating a temporary directory on the second computer, wherein the temporary directory has at least a partially random directory name," as recited in claim 1. However, the cited lines of Damico et al. only discloses that co-marketer's website 122a creates a URL for the advertisement link that consists of the address of destination website 128, a UNIX symbolic link identifying the co-marketer, and a file name.

> The second part of the destination URL is formed of a destination file name (e.g., INDEX. HTML) and a UNIX™ symbolic link (e,g., \CM1) that is prepended to the beginning of the destination filename by the co-marketer (co-marketer #1) associated with WWW site 122a.

Damico et al., col. 5, lines 40 to 45. Damico et al. only discloses the creation of a URL and not a temporary directory.

Hypothetically, even if creating a URL is considered equivalent to creating a temporary direction, Damico et al. does not disclose creating a temporary direction having a partially random directory name. For the invention of Damico et al. to properly function, the URL must necessary consist of the address of destination website 128, the UNIX symbolic link identifying the co-marketer, and the file name, all of which are not random. If the URL consists of a random portion, then the user may be directed to a wrong website or online service website 128/online service web server 142 may not identify the co-marketer. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Damico et al., which does not disclose or suggest "creating a temporary directory on the second computer, wherein the temporary directory has at least a partially random directory name." Claim 1.

The Examiner cited Damico et al. at col. 11, line 11 for disclosing "deleting the temporary directory on the second computer," as recited in claim 1. However, Damico et al. only discloses a CGI program on online service website 128/online service web server 142 that modifies the URL to preserve the UNIX symbolic link that identifies the co-marketer as the user browses between the directories of website 128/web server 142.

> As described above in the background section, when relative URL addressing is used to move between pages on WWW 120, a user may only move between pages in the user's current directory or to a subdirectory located below the user's current directory in a directory tree such as that shown in FIG. 5. Thus, when standard relative URL addressing is used, it is not possible for a user to move from the page represented by URL 514 to the page represented by URL 518 and still preserve the UNIX symbolic link/CMID information described above. In the example shown in FIG. 5, the page 514a represented by URL 514 contains a box giving the user an option to enroll on OLS 140. In accordance with the present invention, if the user clicks on the "Enroll on OLS" box on page 514a, a special redirecting program (redirect.cgi) is triggered on web server 142 for redirecting the user from the page represented by URL 514 to the OLS enrollment page represented by URL 518. A pseudo-code version of the redirect.cgi program is shown in Table I below:
>
> ....

> Thus, the redirect.cgi program accepts as arguments the current URL of the user (e.g., URL 514) and a destination URL representing the location to which the user desires to move (e.g., URL 518). The program then strips the ". . ./Info/Info.P1" portion off of the current URL 514, and replaces the striped portion with the ". . ./Enroll/Enroll.P1" portion of destination URL 518 to form a new URL which is then used for redirecting the user to the page represented by URL 518. The redirect.cgi program is significant to the operation of the present invention because, among other things, this program allows the UNIX™ symbolic link information that was originally passed when the user arrived at the home page of OLS site 128 to be retained as the user moves between pages at OLS site 128. Thus, the redirecting.cgi program insures that the UNIX™ symbolic link information provided by a co-marketer will be present when the enrollment means 145 attempts to enroll the user on OLS 140.

Damico et al., col. 10, line 40 to col. 11, line 44. As described above, the CGI program "removes a given number of directories and the page name" from the URL and not the actual underlying directories and web pages in online service website 128/online service web server 142. Thus, Damico et al. does not disclose "deleting the temporary directory on the second computer," as recited in claim 1.

Hypothetically, even if deleting directories and page name from a URL is considered equivalent to deleting a temporary direction, Damico et al. does not disclose that the directories and page names are deleted from a second computer, i.e., co-marketer website 122a. In the above rejection of the second element ("creating a temporary directory ..."), the Examiner has cited co-marketer website 122a as "the second computer" that creates a temporary directory in claim 1. In the present rejection of the eighth element ("deleting the temporary directory ..."), the quoted lines show that it is online service website 128/online service web server 142, instead of co-marketer website 122a, that deletes the directories and page name from the URL. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Damico et al., which does not disclose or suggest "deleting the temporary directory on the second computer." Claim 1 (emphasis added).

Applicant notes that the Examiner has also inconsistently interpreted the roles of the computers in Damico et al. (i.e., (1) user station 102a, (2) co-marketer website 122a, and (3) online service website 128/online service web server 142) against other limitations claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 8 to 13 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Damico et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 33 is patentable over Damico et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 34 to 43 depend from claim 33 and are patentable over Damico et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 33.

In summary, claims 1-3, 6, 8 to 13, and 33 to 43 were pending in the above-identified application. This response amends claims 1, 2 and 3. For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-3, 6, 8 to 13, and 33 to 43. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408)382-0480x206.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 22, 2003.

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